DMCI Homes eyes up to 3 new projects

By Almira Louise S. Martinez
Reporter

CONSUNJI-LED developer DMCI Homes, Inc. is eyeing to launch two to three more projects in 2025, according to its president.

"If sales are very good, we will launch maybe two or three more projects," DMCI Homes President Alfredo R. Austria told reporters on Friday last week.

However, this may not happen in the first half of 2025 "due to recent project launches," he noted.

He cited new projects in Quezon City, One Delta Terraces, and Kalea Heights, the company's first four-tower project in Cebu.

DMCI Homes is targeting P37 billion in sales and reservations for 2025.

According to Mr. Austria, Baguio, Quezon City, Taguig, and Laguna are some of the possible areas for the DMCI Homes' next launches in the second half of 2025.

He said the company aims to focus on the sales of its existing projects before venturing into new ones.

"We also want our sales team to focus on our ready-for-occupancy projects."

The Cresmont, a single-tower condominium in Quezon City by DMCI Homes, will have its unit turnover this month, remaining on track with its original schedule.

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"We saw that many projects around us are not finished on time," Mr. Austria said. "Despite the difficulties of the environment, especially brought by the pandemic, our delivery is still on time."

Reflecting on the company's challenges during the lockdown, Mr. Austria said that the majority of Cresmont units had been sold before the pandemic.

"It was actually almost sold out in 2019 before the pandemic. It was selling fast," he said. "After the pandemic, Chinese buyers, one after the other, backed out."

He noted that even Filipino buyers canceled their payments because of the public health crisis.

At present, around 190 units have become available again in the project.

DMCI Vice-President for Project Development Dennis O. Yap said that the lower interest rate will help the company increase its ready-for-occupancy sales.

"Before, maybe the market was discouraged from buying ready-for-occupancy units because of the interest rate," he told *BusinessWorld*.

"Our main target end-users want to be able to occupy the units right away," he said. "So, we feel like the situation of our ready-for-occupancy units will definitely improve."

IDC Prime, Dusit to develop 2 upscale hotels in Mindanao

IDC Prime, Inc., a subsidiary of real estate developer Italpinas Development Corp., has partnered with Thai hospitality group Dusit International to develop two new upscale hotels in Northern Mindanao.

IDC Prime signed agreements with Dusit Thani Public Co. Ltd. and Dusit Thani Philippines, Inc. on Monday to establish Dusit Princess Moena in Bukidnon and Dusit Princess Firenze in Cagayan de Oro.

Under the partnership, IDC Prime will be the developer and owner of the projects, while Dusit will provide its brand and expertise in guest experience.

"We are delighted to strengthen our presence in the Philippines with these two remarkable projects," Dusit International Chief Operating Officer Gilles Cretallaz said in a statement.

"As one of Asia's fastest-growing economies, the Philippines presents tremendous opportunities, and we look forward to introducing our unique brand of Thai-inspired gracious hospitality to these dynamic and promising destinations, delivering lasting value for all stakeholders," he added.

Expected to open by the last quarter of 2029, the 1.5-hectare Dusit Princess Moena is a mixed-use development that will have an eight-storey green building as well as a grouping of luxury villas.

The property is located at a hilltop site within IDC's Moena Mountain Estate in Manolo Fortich town and will complement attractions such as Dahilayan Adventure Park and the Del Monte Pineapple plantations.

Also set to open by the last quarter of 2029, the 14-storey Dusit Princess Firenze mixed-use green building will be located within IDC's Firenze Green Tower project in the Limketkai area.

The property will have commercial, residential, and hotel areas, as well as first-class amenities and parking.

IDC Prime said that both Firenze Green Tower and Moena Mountain Estate are pre-existing joint ventures between IDC as the property developer and the Go family as the original owners of the two sites.

"IDC was founded on our belief in the Philippines' growth story, particularly in areas such as these, which are already full of energy and have great potential for game-changing growth. Apart from being recognized for their architecture and sustainability, our projects have all been located in places where they are ahead of the curve and deliver a 'level-up' in elegance and quality of experience," IDC Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Romolo V. Nati said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

How bamboo meets construction needs

By Edg Adrian A. Eva *Reporter*

RIZOME PH, a sustainable materials company in Cagayan de Oro City, converts bamboo fiber into structural materials for constructing houses and buildings.

"The bamboo grass, with the application of science and technology, is being turned into beams, columns, and panels," Christopher Ua-o, head of manufacturing at Rizome PH, told reporters during a factory visit in Cagayan de Oro on Nov. 28.

"Basically, you create a building with a wood finish that looks beautiful, but you didn't cut down any trees," he added.

Mr. Ua-o also said that the bamboo materials developed by Rizome PH have passed durability and suitability tests conducted by the Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute and Washington State University.

"Our tagline is strong like steel, tough like concrete, beautiful as wood," he said.

Rizome PH's bamboo building materials include slats, veneers, panels, laminated veneer lumber, and strand lumber, designed to meet the structural and aesthetic requirements of house and building projects.

Mr. Ua-o said that bamboo is a sustainable material because it is a fast-growing grass that can be harvested within a year and regrows after being cut, helping to preserve forest trees. In contrast, trees take 10 to 20 years to mature.


EDG ADRIAN A. EVA

RIZOME PH aims to construct high-rise buildings using bamboo products.

The company aims to revive the timber industry without cutting any trees by using bamboo, a sustainable grass, he noted.

Using bamboo in construction helps store carbon, and as bamboo regrows, it absorbs more carbon dioxide and releases oxygen, he added.

According to the Climate Change Commission, bamboo captures over five tons of carbon dioxide per hectare annually, storing more carbon than most tree species and making it an effective tool in combating climate change.

Mr. Ua-o said that Rizome PH, having built a one-story structure so far, also targets to construct high-rise buildings using bamboo products to demonstrate the material's strength and sustainability.

Cemex Holdings completes sale of reinsurance unit

CEMEX Holdings Philippines, Inc. (CHP) has completed the sale of its shares in a foreign subsidiary.

The payment for the sale of all CHP shares in Falcon Re Ltd. to Torino Re Ltd. was completed on Nov. 29, the cement producer said in a stock exchange disclosure.

The deal was valued at $3 million. The share purchase agreement between CHP and Torino was signed on Nov. 14.

Falcon is a CHP subsidiary established in Barbados which reinsures third-party insurers of CHP covering risks associated with property insurance coverage, with political violence and non-damage business interruption programs, professional liability program and cyber risks.

Torino is an affiliate of Cemex, S.A.B. de C.V.

CHP recently sold its entire stake in Swiss-based Cemex Asia Research AG (CAR) to Cemex Innovation Holding AG for $900,459 (P53 million) to streamline its business.

Meanwhile, CHP said in a separate disclosure that its indirect parent company, Cemex Asia B.V., has signed an amendment agreement with DMCI Holdings, Inc., Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) and Dacon Corp. on Dec. 1.

The agreement amends the sale and purchase of shares in CHP's principal stockholder, Cemex Asian South East Corp. (CASEC), to waive the condition precedent in relation to the solid expansion.

CASEC owns about 89.86% of CHP's outstanding capital stock.

"The parties agreed to conduct certain standard confirmatory testing related to the solid expansion after closing, and the same is expected to be completed within the first quarter of 2025 or soon thereafter," CHP said.

In April, DMCI, SMPC, and Dacon announced the acquisition of CHP for $305.6 million under a share purchase agreement.

DMCI acquired the entire share of Cemex Asia B.V. in CASEC. Under the deal, DMCI will acquire a 56.75% stake in CASEC, Dacon will secure 32.12%, and SMPC will purchase the remaining 11.13%.

CEMEX PHILIPPINES FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

On Monday, CHP stocks rose by 5.59% or 10 centavos to P1.89 per share while DMCI stocks improved by 1.13% or 12 centavos to P10.78 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Knorr credits PHL market for part of €5-B global turnover

BW FILE PHOTO

FOOD BRAND Knorr has reported €5 billion (about P308 billion) in global turnover as it looks to further expand its global and domestic presence.

Knorr, a brand of British fast-moving consumer goods company Unilever PLC, said the achievement could be traced to its growth over the past years.

"We're a global brand, anchored in regional top dishes," Knorr Global Vice-President Frank Haresnape said in a statement on Monday.

"This deep local knowledge allows us to design products that meet the needs of people all around the world," he added.

Knorr claimed that around 600 cubes are sold globally every minute, led by the brand's "glocal" approach that has allowed it to become known for being an ingredient in dishes across 90 countries.

"The Philippines is a vital part of Knorr's global success and Unilever intends to keep driving the growth of Knorr in the market through relentless focus on flavor, quality, and innovations, from everyday dishes to top food trends," it said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Carol-an IP Community Receive Technology and Healthcare for National Indigenous People's Month

Over 1,800 Elders and IP Scholars Supported by DigiPlus, BingoPlus Foundation

As part of its pledge committed during National Indigenous Peoples Month in October, BingoPlus Foundation, the social development arm of DigiPlus Interactive, extended its commitment to community welfare by organizing a two-day optical mission and distribution of tablets to members of the Carol-an Indigenous Community in Kabankalan City.

Held on Nov. 20-21, the medical mission reached 1,829 indigenous senior citizens from Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities across 12 barangays. The Foundation offered free eye screenings, glasses, and eyedrops to the beneficiaries, ensuring 100% reach for all indigenous senior citizens of the community. Additionally, individuals requiring further medical attention were referred for advanced check-ups and testing. The initiative supported the Kabangkalan City Indigenous People Youth Organization (KaCIPYO) in their bid to give back to their elders for safeguarding their culture.

"We are dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of underserved communities. This optical mission is part of our broader effort to empower and support the well-being of Indigenous Peoples, especially senior citizens who are often marginalized in healthcare access," said DigiPlus Interactive VP and BingoPlus Foundation COO Celeste Jovenir.

Beyond healthcare for elders, BingoPlus Foundation also extended its support to the younger generation. During their Kabankalan City visit, 50 students from the KaCIPYO received tablets to assist in their studies.


Students from the Kabankalan City Indigenous People Youth Organization receive tablets to be used as support for their education and learning journey.

"Our elders face challenges in accessing healthcare programs in the city because of the distance they need to travel, while many of our youth are unable to continue their education because of a lack of tools to complete their requirements. We are honored to be among the beneficiaries of DigiPlus and BingoPlus Foundation in Negros Occidental," shared Jeolina Largado, president of the KaCIPYO.

The success of these initiatives highlights BingoPlus Foundation's dedication to addressing healthcare and educational inequalities, particularly in underserved and remote communities.